

TABLE 2.—RELATION OF LABOR FORCE IN AGRICULTURE TO TOTAL LABOR FORCE AND TO TOTAL POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, CENSUS YEARS: 1820 TO 1954

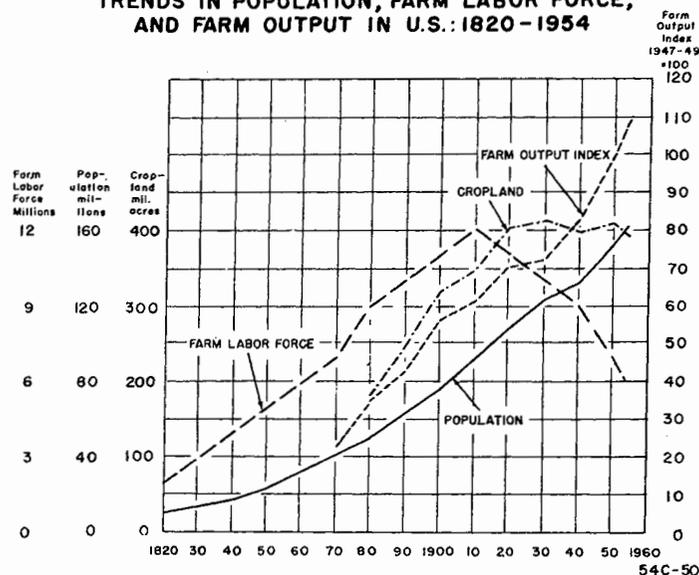
Year	Labor force			Total population of continental United States	
	All occupations (number)	Agricultural pursuits (number)	Percentage farm labor force is of total (percent)	Total (number)	Percentage farm labor force is of total population (percent)
Persons 10 years old and older					
1820	2,881,000	2,068,958	71.8	9,638,453	21.5
1830	3,931,537	2,772,453	70.5	12,866,020	21.5
1840	5,420,000	3,719,951	68.6	17,069,453	21.8
1850	7,697,198	4,901,882	63.7	23,191,876	21.1
1860	10,532,750	6,207,634	58.9	31,443,321	19.7
1870	12,924,951	6,849,772	53.0	39,818,449	17.2
1880	17,392,099	8,584,810	49.4	50,155,783	17.1
1890	23,318,183	9,938,373	42.6	62,947,714	15.8
1900	29,073,233	10,911,998	37.5	75,994,575	14.4
1910	37,370,794	11,591,767	31.0	91,972,266	12.6
1920	42,433,535	11,448,770	27.0	105,710,620	10.8
1930	48,829,920	10,471,998	21.4	122,775,046	8.5
Persons 14 years old and older					
1930	48,594,592	10,161,212	20.9	122,775,046	8.3
1940	51,742,023	8,833,324	17.1	131,669,275	6.7
1950	59,015,464	6,837,652	11.6	150,697,361	4.5
1954	63,924,000	6,027,000	9.4	180,490,000	3.8

¹ Not strictly comparable to decennial Census data. Experienced civilian labor force as of April 1, 1954.

when several million able-bodied men and experienced farm workers entered the armed forces or factory work. Many of these were not fully replaced in number, and the replacements in many cases were less physically capable workers—older men, women, and children.

The use of additional labor-saving devices on the farm, varied size of power units to meet the need of most sizes of farm operations, more fertilizer, better seeds, and other factors such as: increased use of irrigation, pest and insect control, increased production per acre of cropland, increase in production per animal, increasing size of the farm business, elimina-

TRENDS IN POPULATION, FARM LABOR FORCE, AND FARM OUTPUT IN U.S.: 1820-1954



tion of operations, increase in hiring of farm work on a custom basis, and the increase of the share of some agricultural services performed by groups off farms, have continued to increase the output per agricultural worker, and by 1954 only 9.4 percent of the total labor force was engaged in agricultural pursuits. Private and governmental research developments adopted by the farmer have been responsible for the technological advancements that have brought about more production for each hour of farm work. Engineers, chemists, entomologists, agronomists, pathologists, plant and animal breeders, and packaging, processing and marketing specialists have contributed to increased farm mechanization and increased production per acre and per animal. Both mechanization and increased production have increased farm output per worker to enable a declining number of farm workers to feed a growing population.

